Recuritment of Pilots in IA

†1600. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recruitments of the pilots have not been made in the Indian Airlines for the last so many years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is Government's plans over the issue of recruiting pilots in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The recruitment for the post of Trainee Pilots is done as per the requirement of pilots. The last selection for the post of Trainee pilots was made in the year 1991.

(c) To meet the operational requirements, Indian Airlines has notified 24 posts of Trainee Pilots for which recruitment process is on.

Develoment of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Airport Ahmedabad

†1601. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Govt. of Gujarat has submitted any request to the Central Government to develop Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel International Airport at Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Central Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India has taken up upgradation of Ahmedabad Airport to international starndards for the operation of B-747 class of aircraft as this airport has been declared as international airport on 23- 05-2000. The following works have been taken up:

(i) strengthening and extension of runway to 11500 ft. with probable date of completion by December, 2000;

(ii) plans for construction of new departure terminal to handle 600 passengers at a time;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.